

The Bulletin
OF THE
Oxford Second
Presbyterian Church
OXFORD, NEW JERSEY



Rev. Andrew Gilbert Yount, Ph.D.
Pastor

*Be careful for nothing; but in everything
by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your
requests be made
known to God*

*And the peace of God, which passeth all
understanding, shall keep your
hearts and minds through*

*Christ Jesus
Philippians IV, 6, 7*

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STATED MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School, 9:30 a. m.
Church Worship, 10:30 a. m.
Young People's Meeting, 7 p. m.

The Trustees meet on the first Tuesday of the month.
The Ladies Aid Society meets on the first Wednesday of the month, at 2:30 p. m.
The Lord's Supper is observed at Easter, and on the second Sundays of July, October and January.
The Annual Business Meeting comes in last week of March.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders—Abram Pittenger, Elisha B. Foss, Edward T. Green, Lewis Bergenback.
Trustees—Harry Miller, James Radel, George Docker, Jr., Charles Renner, Fred K. Sarson, Lewis E. Green, Edward Sharps, Charles Dux, Benjamin Green.
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Bulletin No. 169, May 28th, 1933

Morning Worship

Doxology
Invocation and Lord's Prayer
Psalm 145
Hymn 44
Creed and Gloria
Scripture Lesson
Prayer
Solo Mrs Margaret Hunt
Offering
Hymn 245
Sermon
Hymn 368
Benediction

Prayer

"Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; Through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"True Patriotism" is the topic for the young people tonight at seven o'clock. Frank Poch will lead. Be prompt.

The Young People's Society has paid to the Church Treasurer the sum of \$45.00, being the net proceeds of the play they gave last March.

During the past few weeks three ladies of the Church gave private socials in their homes, and gave the proceeds to the Aid Society. They were Mrs. Dr. L. B. Hoagland with \$12.00; Mrs. Clark Wilkinson with \$14.00 and Mrs. Carroll Meyers with \$19.00 a total of \$45.00. These socials were greatly enjoyed by all who attended them.

The Church came through the past winter since last November by paying cash for all coal, light, and incidental expenses, and reducing deficit on Janitors salary and one store account on old coal bill.

The treasurer hopes to be able soon to further reduce all the old bills, which will put the church better condition respecting such accounts than for the past two years. This is encouraging to all, and promises well for the future.

A report of the Treasurer will be given before long, so that all the members and friends of the church may be kept fully informed of its financial affairs.

Our Church has no more devoted friend than Mr. Clinton E. Weston, who has written the Editor a gracious expression of his satisfaction with the reunion.

He writes, "The reunion on May 14th was probably one of the most memorable events in the history of Oxford. The large representation and the enthusiastic greetings of long parted friends bespoke the loyalty, the affection and the common interest that still exists as in former years and which the passing of time has failed to fade. We are all greatly indebted to you and your efforts in bringing this about. We appreciate the problem of the Ladies in serving of the fine luncheon and also the excellent music furnished by the choir and the young men musicians. The success of the affair assures the permanency of the reunions."

Mr. Weston informs us that he is preparing an article for the bulletin, and this will please all readers of the paper. He also expects to be in Oxford this week. He will be a welcomed visitor.

The Rev. Irving Maxwell, Pastor here from 1887 to 1895, did not forget us on the reunion day, but sent the pastor a very kind personal letter, expressing his regret at not coming, because of his own church plans for Mother's day.

He occupies a prominent place in the history of our Church, and still lives in the hearts of hundreds of his friends who worked in the Church with him in other days.

The Pastor had one sore disappointment on Reunion day, - he was unable to greet personally but very few of the visitors, and some of these he had never seen before and had looked forward to meeting them with much interest.

If any felt he was remiss in neglecting them, he must plead guilty and ask for their kind consideration, on account of the exacting duties of the time.

A very pleasing feature of the reunion was the presence of so many Oxford citizens of all the Churches, - especially the elderly people who rejoiced to see and greet so many of their old time friends.

Their personal expressions of enjoyment of the occasion to the Pastor have been very hearty.

We are glad to add to our mailing list the names of Mr. Jesse Seiple of Watertown Mass., and Mrs. Mary Burke, of Oxford.

The list now numbers seventy one.

The Railroad Tunnel By Patrick Kempsey

The building of the Van Nest Gap Tunnel at Oxford was begun in the year 1854 and completed in 1862. The Engineer was Andrew N. Rogers, assisted by Homer S. Goodwin.

Mr. Rogers resigned while the work was in progress and his place taken by Mr. James Archibald, engineer of the D.L.W.R.R.

The tunnel is 3500 feet long. A tablet at the entrance (North) reads as follows:

Van Nest Gap Tunnel
Completed 1862
Warren R.R.
John I. Blair President
James Archibald Engineer
McAllister & Weistling Contractors

The original contractors were Thomas Rutter and J. Haskins Dupuy, who were succeeded by General Robert McAllister and George W. Weistler, who finished it in 1862.

The tunnel excavation was operated from four points, - the two portals at the ends and two shafts midway. The first man to lose his life was a James Fitzgerald who was crushed between rock cars at the west end portal of the tunnel. His body was the first interred in the Catholic Cemetery, on the road leading to Jonestown. There were very few fatal accidents considering the rough crude work it entailed; but there were many scars and marks left from other causes such as the free use of Grog which was used very liberally in those days. In fact it caused a riot among the workmen themselves and the work had to be stopped for a while until the men got back to normal again.

There was at that time no choice of milder drinks, as the mildest was captain Grog which ran freely and left many red and black marks behind it. During the riot there were men on watch at many points with a one barrel muzzle loading gun to halt any one who came that way and didn't look good to them.

However there was no one shot. I think it was due to the watchman being too friendly with old man Grog which had something to do with his firing too high or too low, and it took so long to reload that his man was gone, and he thought it best to lay himself and his gun down and sleep his troubles away.

In the morning when he awoke he felt mad to find his gun missing, so he started for the boarding house to see if he could not start some trouble there, which I think he got good and plenty, if not more than he expected.

Respecting the article by Mr. Kempsey, the Editor has been told by Mrs. Mary Burke that her father, Larance Martin, and also Mr. Kempsey's father both work on the digging of the tunnel; also that there were then workmen's houses along the entire length of the tunnel.

Apropos to the free use of grog at that time, a recollection of Mr. Theodore Little may be recalled. He remembers that once when he was a boy, he was standing one morning on the old station platform when the local from N.Y. City came in, and he overheard a conversation between the conductor and the Agent, in which the conductor remarked that every morning he put off more grog in Oxford than in Scranton. Mr. Kempsey is a strong temperance advocate to this day.

Mrs. Mary Martin Burke remembers that she first attended school in the old stone Chapel, and that her teacher was a Miss Kingsbury, a sister of Elder Henry Kingsbury

Mr. Theodore Little, who is hale and happy at the age of ninety, was present at the reunion and was much pleased with it, is perhaps the only person in Oxford who can remember when the first train ran through Oxford. The date he cannot give but he was a boy (born in 1844) and has a vivid recollection of the occasion.

The train stopped by the old Fowler house and the little band on the train played The Star Spangled Banner. The train consisted of the engine and one coach, and the latter had two apartments, for passengers and for express and baggage.

The engine had one drive wheel, and weighed less than 20 tons. The engine had a name— "Lilliput" What a memory!

Mr. Little remembers when the swamp east of the R.R. fill was called Pine Swamp, because it was heavily wooded with great pine trees, which in time were made into charcoal for the furnace. When it was all felled, a farmer for the Company by the name of John Sullivan took about 15 yoke of oxen and pulled up the stumps, and dug ditches and drained it. Then divided it into fields of ten acres each, and it became one of the richest farms in the county.

Regarding the tunnel he recalls that the contractors store house for the workmen was kept in the house still standing, the last on the west side of tunnel hill road.

We learn from Mrs. Little that on our reunion Sunday her brother, Dr. Lewis Estler of Arlington, N.J. called at their house, and later regretted he did not know about the reunion. He will be informed of the next.

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